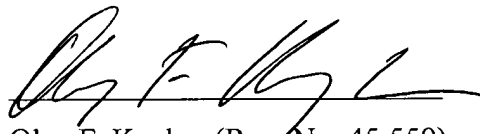


REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5-16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: March 24, 2004



Oleg F. Kaplun (Reg. No. 45,559)

Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP
150 Broadway, suite 702
New York, NY 10038
Tel: 212-610-6000